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① I 53.2: W 64/13/prop.

② **SUMMARY OF PROPOSED WILDERNESS
INVENTORY DECISIONS**

Nevada BLM, 1986



⑤ **U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**
⑥ **Bureau of Land Management**
August 1986

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United States Department of the Interior
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
NEVADA STATE OFFICE

600 Harvard Way
P.O. Box 12000
Reno, Nevada 89500

IN REPLY REFER TO:

8500
(NV-930)

AUG 8 1986

Dear Citizen:

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in Nevada has completed the inventory of ten former Wilderness Study Areas (WSAs) which were reinstated to the wilderness study process as the result of a court case. The areas are in Clark, Lincoln and White Pine Counties and all ten are adjacent to other federal agencies' proposed wilderness or roadless areas.

These lands were reinstated in the wilderness study process as a result of an April 1986 decision in Sierra Club vs. Watt concerning certain lands that were deleted from wilderness review in 1982 and 1983. Then Secretary of the Interior James Watt nationally initiated eliminating WSAs that were contiguous to other agencies' proposals.

As the result of the court case, all of the areas have been reinstated as WSAs, and each has been inventoried to document its wilderness character. Wilderness characteristics are defined by the 1964 Wilderness Act and include size, naturalness, solitude, primitive or unconfined recreation, and supplemental values such as ecological or geological uniqueness.

The inventory documented whether or not each WSA will be studied further for wilderness suitability or unsuitability under Section 603 or 202 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA). The court has ordered that all ten of the WSAs must be studied through the BLM's land use planning process. Ten Nevada WSAs have wilderness character and will be studied under Section 603 of FLPMA.

The court also ordered that three additional WSAs in Nevada containing less than 5,000 acres must be studied under Section 202. The study for all reinstated WSAs is tentatively planned to begin in 1987. Recommendations regarding each area's suitability or unsuitability for wilderness designation will not be developed until 1988.

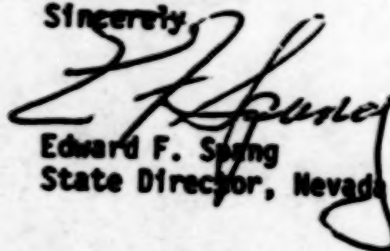
A summary of the wilderness characteristics of each WSA being inventoried in Nevada is included in this document for your review. These are proposed decisions for each of the ten WSAs regarding their study status. Public comments will be considered before final decisions are made.

Any comments regarding each area's WSA status under Section 603 or 202 of FLPMA should address the area's wilderness characteristics and be sent to the Nevada State Director, Bureau of Land Management, P.O. Box 12000, Reno, Nevada 89520. The comment period will end November 20, 1986.

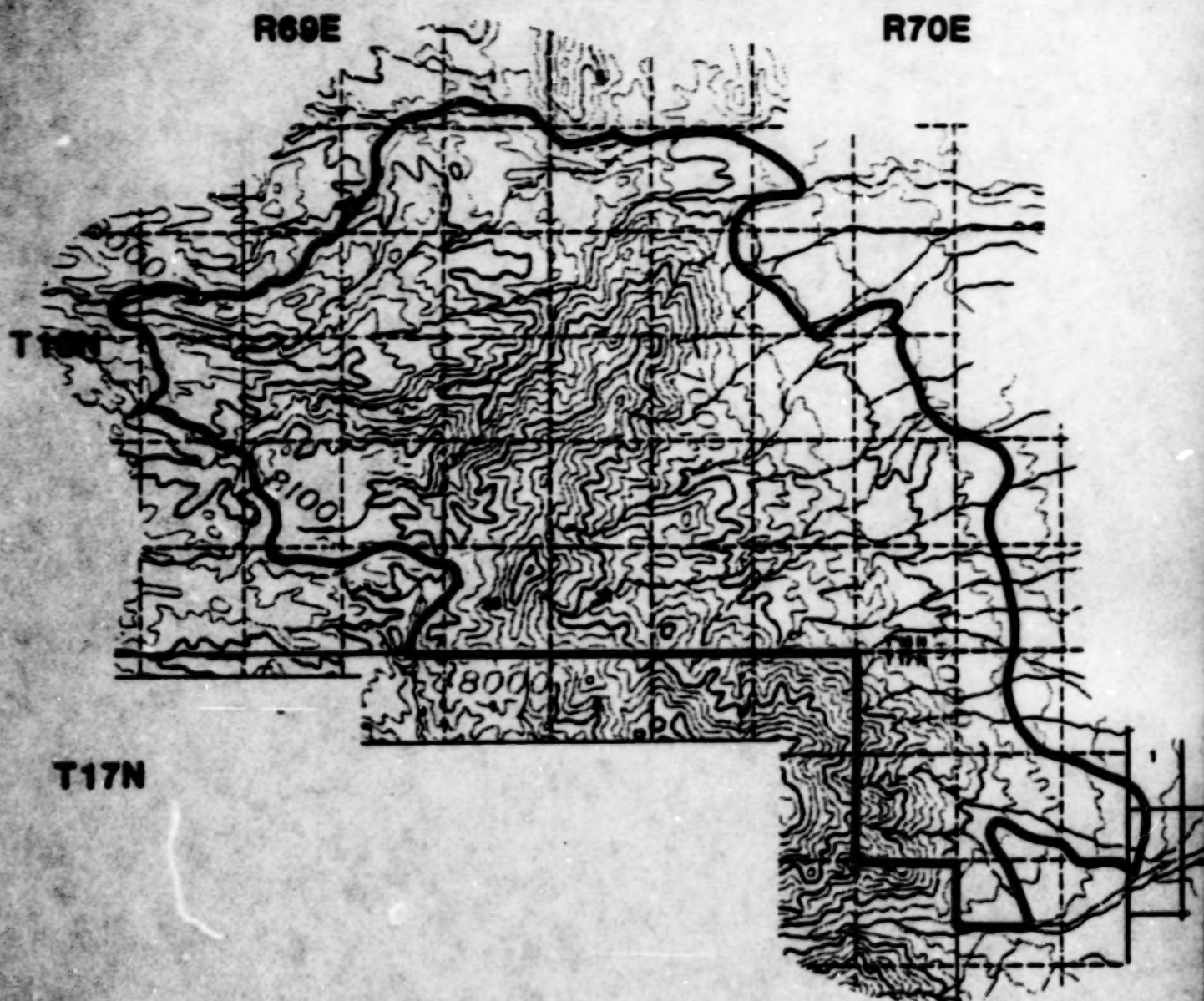
Questions regarding specific WSAs should be directed to BLM's District Managers. Questions on Marble Canyon should be directed to the Ely District Manager at Star Route 5, Box 1, Ely, Nevada 89301. Questions regarding the other nine areas should be addressed to the Las Vegas District Manager at 4765 W. Vegas Dr., P.O. Box 26569, Las Vegas, Nevada 89126.

Thank you for your continued interest in the BLM's wilderness review process.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "E. Spang", written over the typed name and title.

Edward F. Spang
State Director, Nevada



MARBLE CANYON
NV-040-086

UNIT NUMBER: NV-040-086

UNIT NAME: Marble Canyon
(formerly Granite Spring)

AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit lies east of Ely, Nevada along the Utah-Nevada border. A portion of its western boundary is formed by the Mt. Moriah Unit, a proposed wilderness area for the Humboldt National Forest. Roads and ways form the remainder of the unit's western boundary. The unit's northern and eastern boundaries follow the Marble Canyon, Coyote Canyon and Smith Canyon roads. The eastern boundary road terminates at the Forest Service's Mt. Moriah Unit boundary. The topography of the unit is rugged. The most impressive of the canyons is Bars Canyon, a complex array of sandstone and marble cliffs that drop nearly 800 feet to a valley floor. The area between the canyons is a mass of jumbled peaks and drainages that are scattered with juniper, pinyon pine and mountain mahogany. The highest point in the area is 9,331 feet located on a long ridge that crosses through the unit's center. The ridge plays host to Douglas fir, white fir, bristlecone pine and limber pine.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

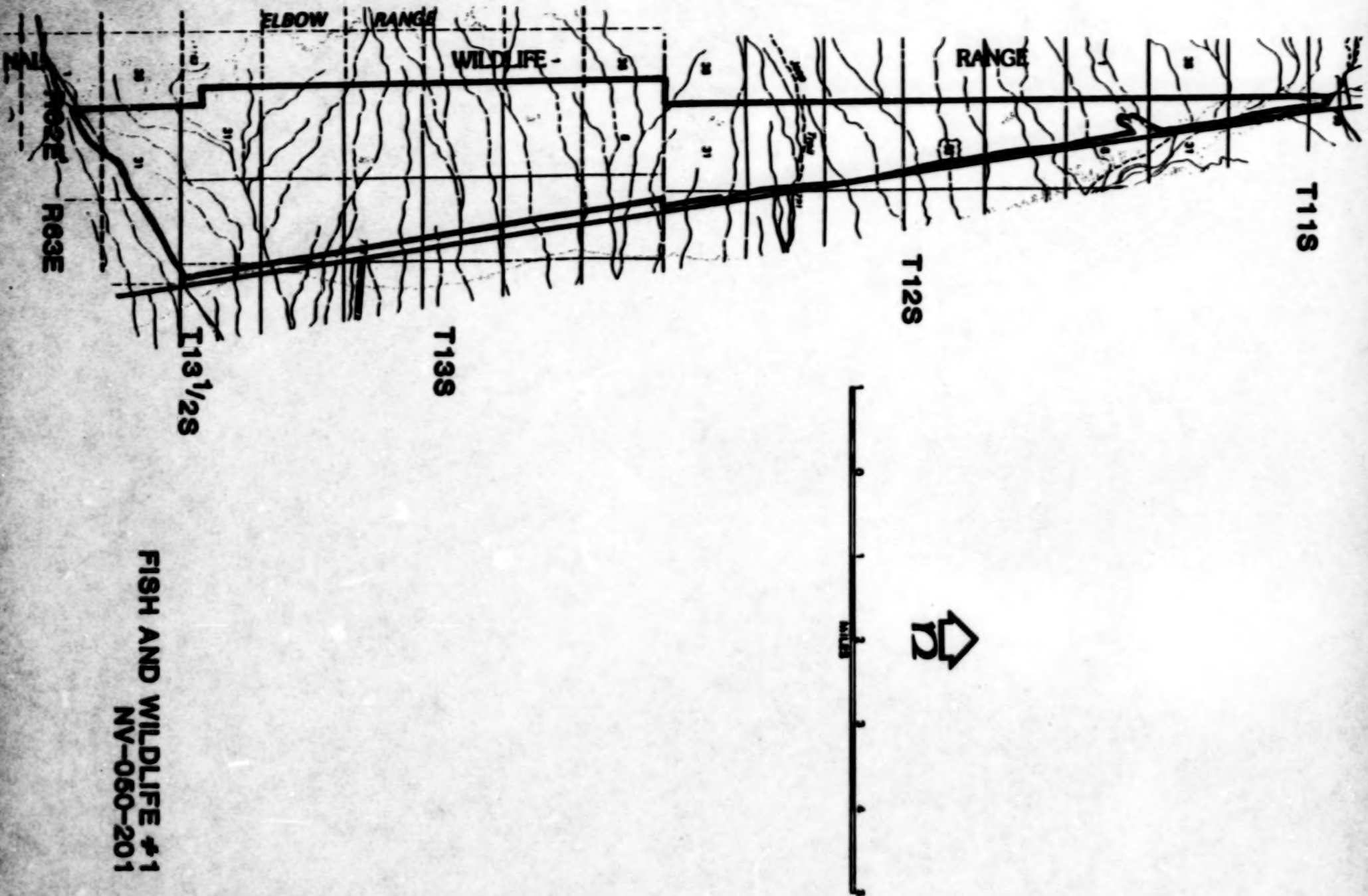
Marble Canyon contains 19,150 acres of public land. The area is in a natural condition, contains opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation, and exhibits archaeological, geological, and botanical values.

RATIONALE AND RECOMMENDATION:

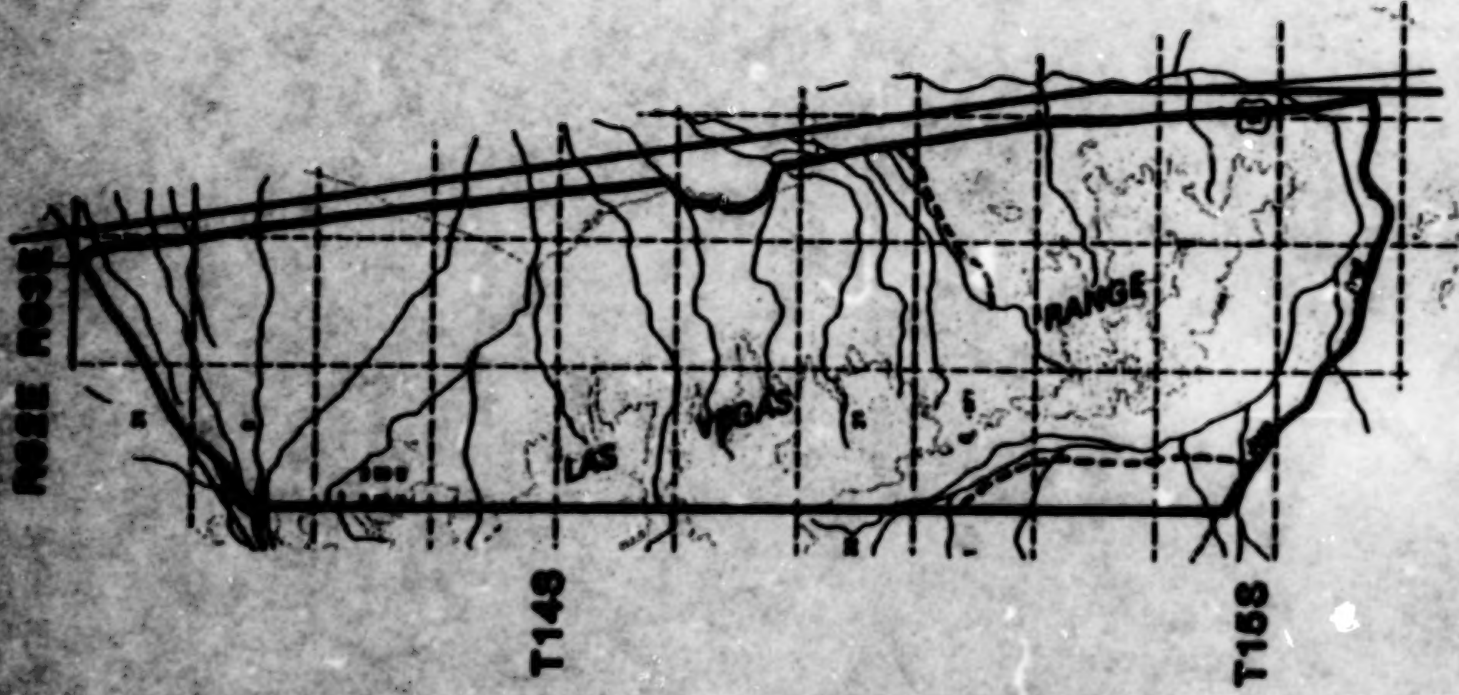
The area possesses wilderness characteristics. In compliance with the court mandate, we choose to study 19,150 acres of public land under the authority of Section 603 of FLPMA.

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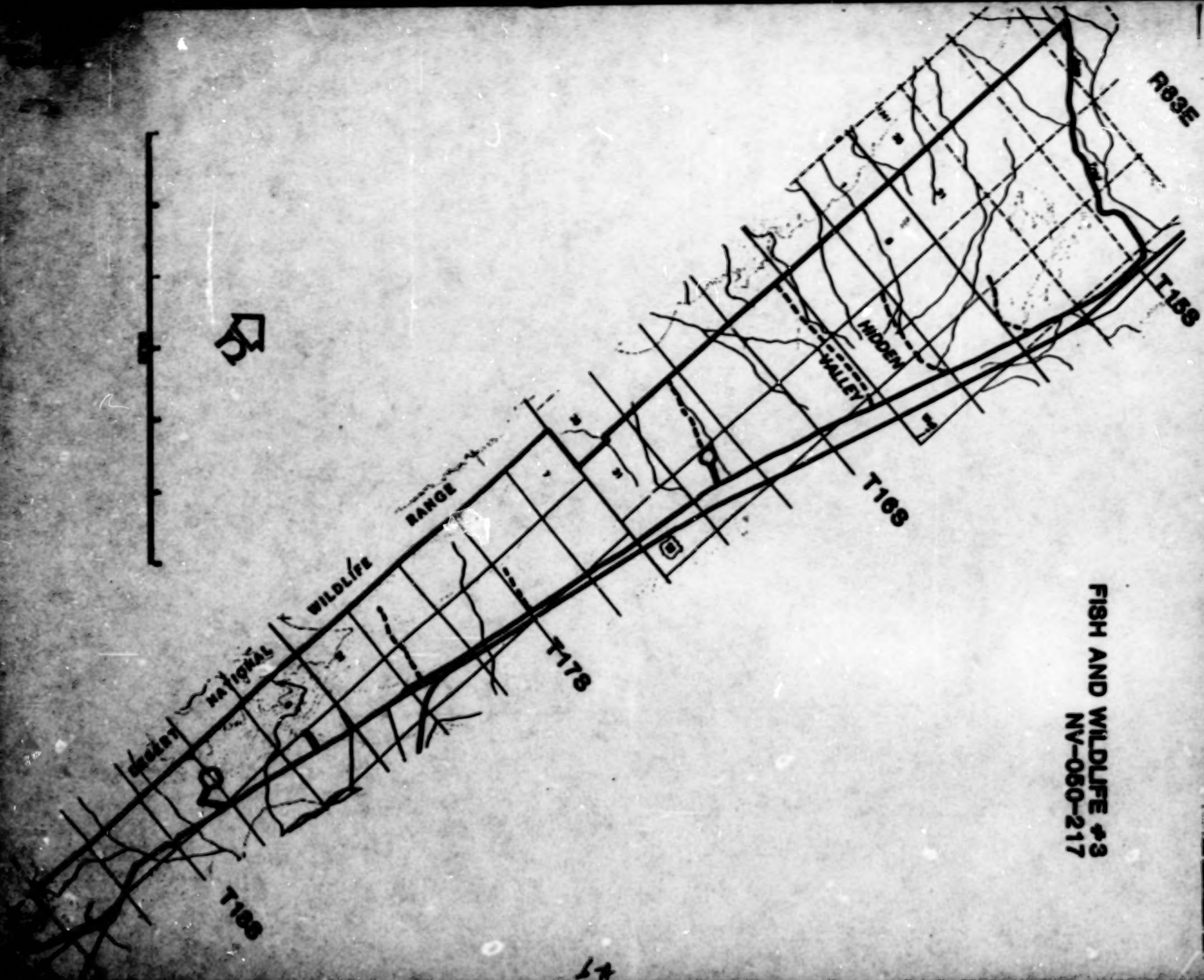


FISH AND WILDLIFE #1
NV-060-201



FISH AND WILDLIFE #2
NV-060-216

FISH AND WILDLIFE #3
NV-060-217



UNIT NUMBER: NV-050-201, 216, 217

UNIT NAME: Fish and Wildlife
Service 1, 2, 3

AREA DESCRIPTION: Fish and Wildlife inventory units 1, 2, and 3 are located approximately 35 miles north of Las Vegas, beginning in Clark County and extending into Lincoln County. These units run in a long narrow strip between the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service Desert National Wildlife Range (FWS-DNWR) and U.S. Highway 93. As one unit, the strip is approximately 45 miles long and 3 miles wide at its widest point. The southern boundary is defined by a powerline right-of-way and access road. Fish and Wildlife No. 1 is adjacent to the FWS-DNWR No. 3 wilderness proposal and Fish and Wildlife Nos. 1 and 2 are adjacent to FWS-DNWR No. 2 wilderness proposal. Gently sloping to flat bajadas dominate the landscape of all three units. The Las Vegas Range stemming off the Sheep Range forms a "hidden" valley in the northern portion of Fish and Wildlife No. 3 and the southern portion of Fish and Wildlife No. 2. Vegetation consists of yucca, cacti, Joshua trees and desert shrubs. Elevations range from 2,000 to 4,650 feet.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

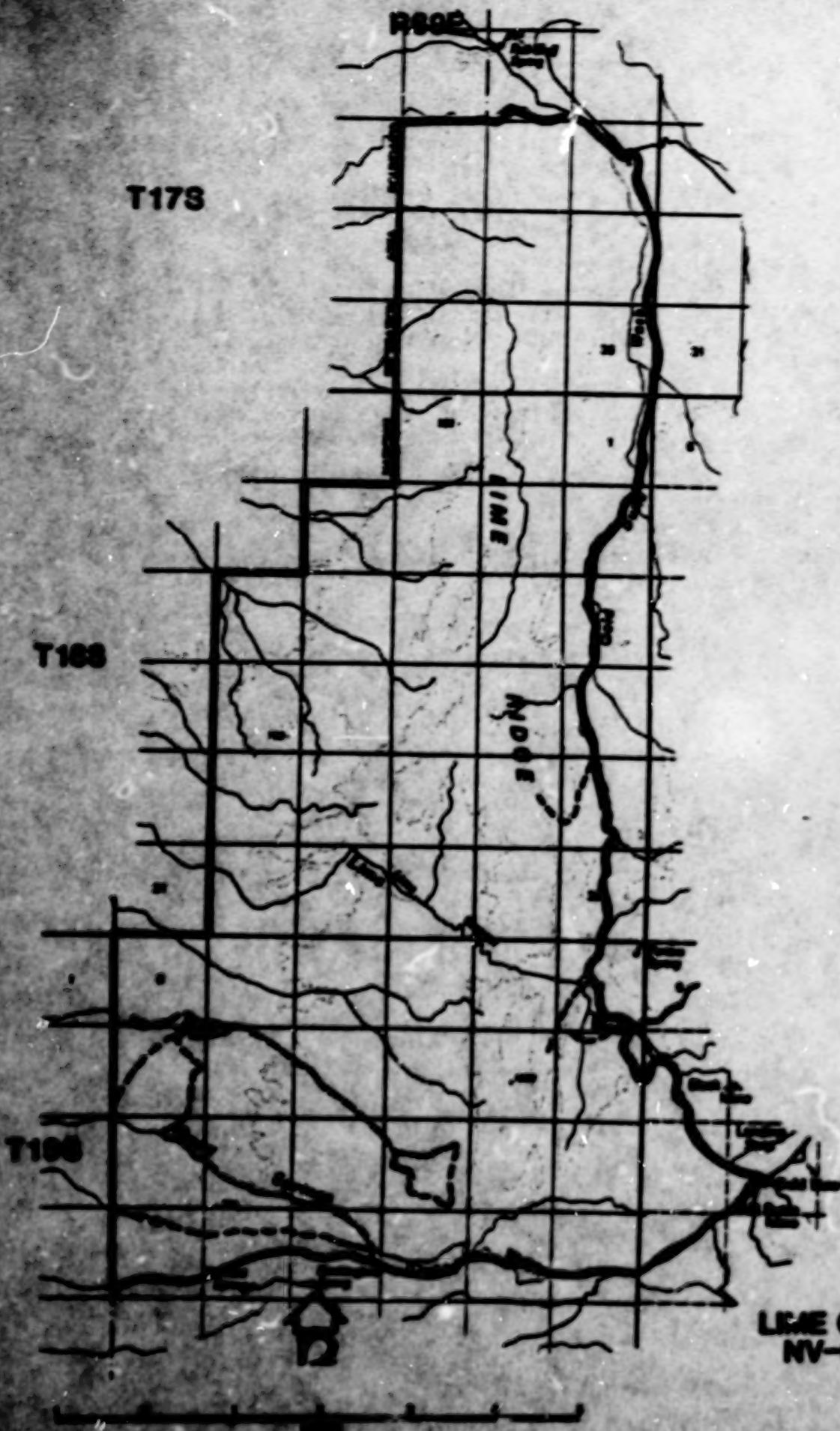
These three units total 50,334 acres of public land in a narrow elongated shape. The individual sizes are as follows:

Fish and Wildlife 1	11,090 acres
Fish and Wildlife 2	17,242 acres
Fish and Wildlife 3	22,002 acres

All three areas are primarily in a natural condition, containing opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation. They also exhibit archaeological and botanical values.

RATIONALE AND RECOMMENDATION:

The areas possess wilderness characteristics. In compliance with the court mandate, we choose to study 50,334 acres of public land under the authority of Section 603 of FLPMA.



LIME CANYON
NV-050-231

UNIT NUMBER: NY-050-231

UNIT NAME: Lime Canyon

AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit is located south of Mesquite along the east side of the Overton Arm portion of Lake Mead National Recreation Area (NRA). The unit is dominated by a north-south trending limestone ridge. This ridgeline is dissected into numerous colorful canyons, drainages and washes. The western edge of the area consists of a bajada which slopes westwardly toward Lake Mead. Elevations range from 1,600 to 4,198 feet. The unit is made up of a complex geologic landscape due to faulting. The bulk of the unit is composed of various limestone and sandstone deposits and formations. Vegetation consists of creosote, cacti, scattered Joshua trees and yucca. The unit shares a common western boundary with the National Park Service wilderness proposal for the Lake Mead NRA, Unit No. 12, Overton. The unit's northern, southern and eastern boundaries are all represented by roads and topographic features delineating naturalness.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

The unit contains 34,680 acres of public land and 838 acres of private land for a total of 35,518 acres. The area is in a natural condition, contains opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation, and has unique geological values.

RATIONALE AND RECOMMENDATION:

The area possesses wilderness characteristics. In compliance with the court mandate, we choose to study 34,680 acres of public land under the authority of Section 303 of FLPMA.

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MILLION HILLS
NV-060-233

UNIT NUMBER: NV-050-233

UNIT NAME: Million Hills

AREA DESCRIPTION: Located east of the Overton Arm portion of Lake Mead the unit encompasses a diverse landscape. A minor relief outwash plain makes up the north end of the unit, which gives way to gently rolling hills towards its center. A low eastward sloping tilted ridge with a prominent peak occupies the west central portion of the unit. Numerous canyons, drainages and washes dissect the unit, most of which drain into Lake Mead. Geologically active, the unit's landscape provides numerous examples of faulting, eroded bedrock, foliation and light banding. Elevations range from 1,883 to 4,183 feet. Vegetation consists predominantly of desert shrubs, creosote, and yucca. Small stands of piñon/juniper occupy higher elevations along the unit's southwestern boundary. The unit is contiguous to the National Park Service's wilderness proposal for Unit 17, Indian Hills of the Lake Mead National Recreation Area (NRA) to the east. The southern boundary is adjacent to a withdrawal for the Bureau of Reclamation. The unit's northern and western boundaries are defined by major roads and topographic features, which border the areas of naturalness.

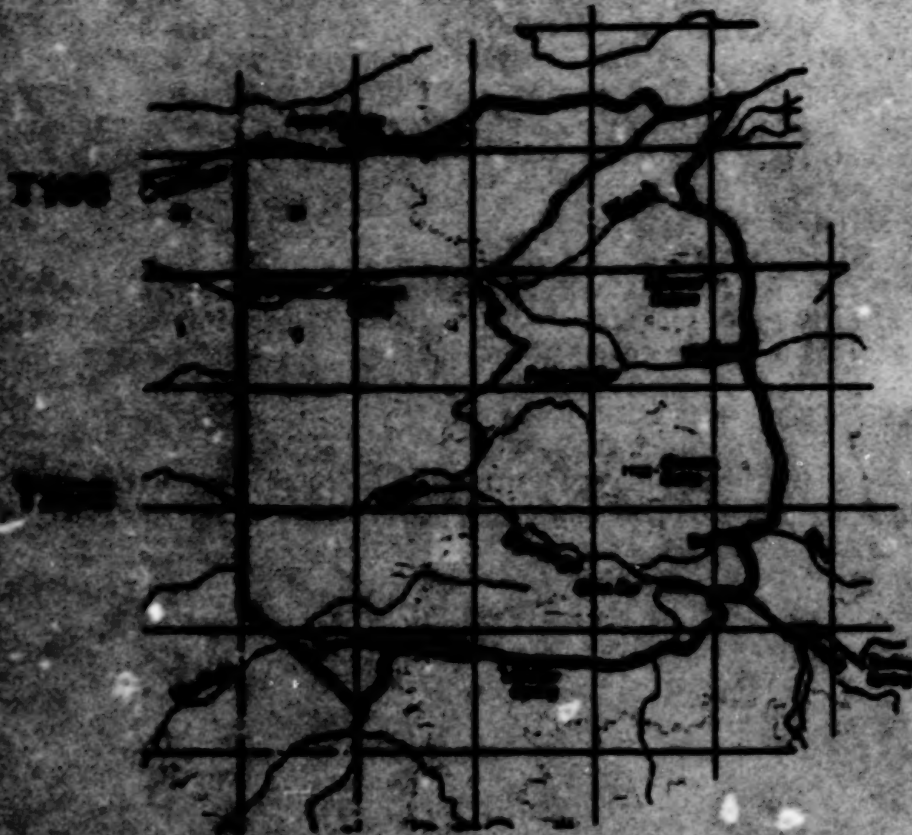
CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

The unit contains 21,296 acres of public land. The area is in a natural condition and contains opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation. It also offers geological and ecological values.

RATIONALE AND RECOMMENDATION:

The area possesses wilderness characteristics. In compliance with the court mandate, we choose to study 21,296 acres of public land under the authority of Section 603 of FLPWA.

ROSE



GARRETT BUTTES
NV-060-235

UNIT NUMBER: NV-050-235

UNIT NAME: Garrett Buttes

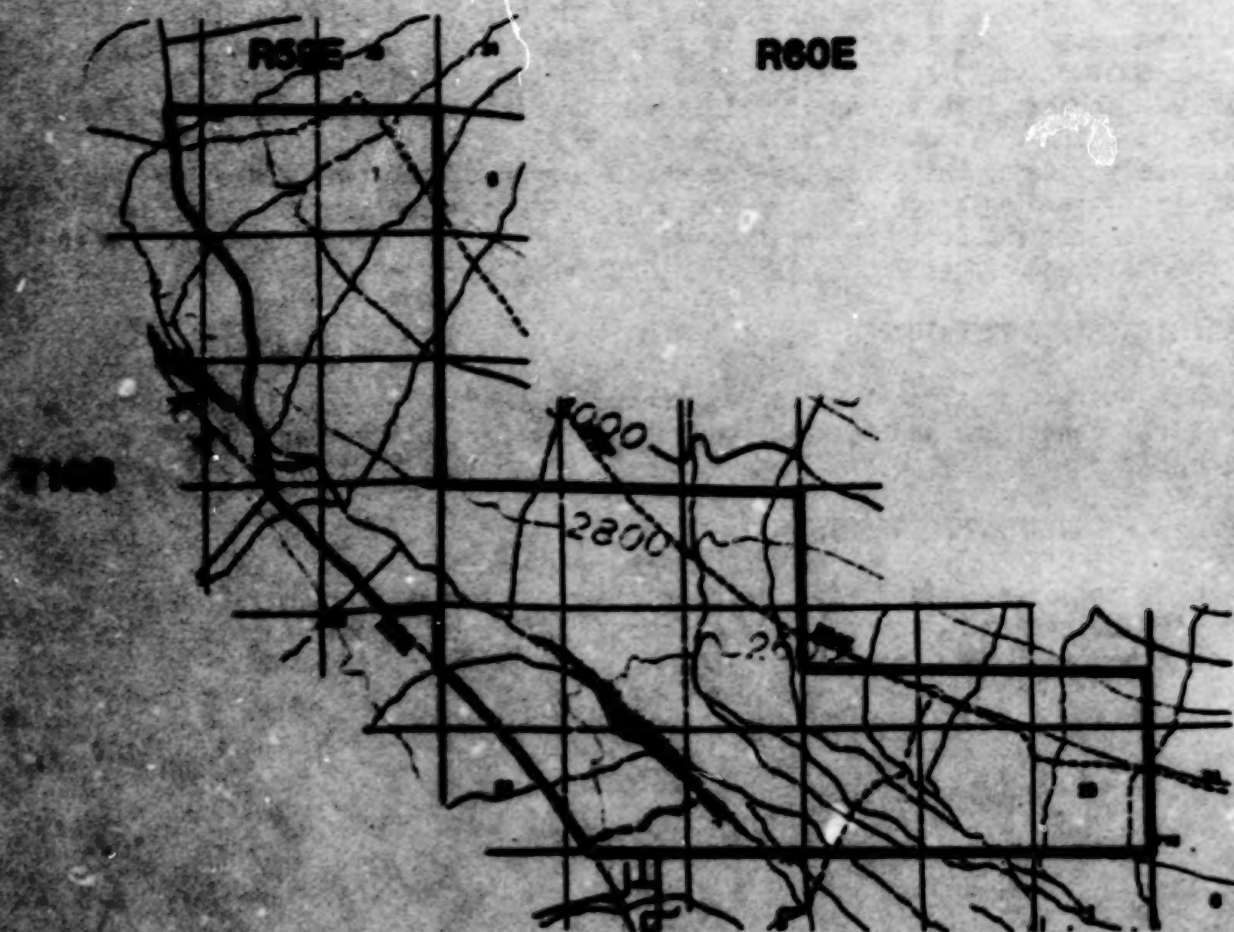
AREA DESCRIPTION: The unit is located east of the Overton Arm portion of Lake Mead, southwest of Gold Butte. The unit shares its western boundary with the National Park Service wilderness proposal for Lake Mead National Recreation Area (NRA), Unit No. 13, Twin Springs. The Catclaw Road depicts the unit's northern boundary and Scalon Ferry Road is the unit's eastern boundary. The southern boundary is the road to Lakeside Mine and the boundary of the Bureau of Reclamation withdrawal. Vegetation within the unit is sparse and consists mainly of desert shrubs. A minimal amount of riparian vegetation can be found in sandy washes. Topography is not exceptionally varied or diverse. Two moderately rounded buttes occupy the north corner of the unit and a low east-west trending ridge occupies the area's southern end. Two major sand washes dissect the unit from east to west. Relief is gradual throughout most of the unit and ranges from 1,195 to 3,920 feet.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

Garrett Buttes contains 11,835 acres of public land. The area is primarily in a natural condition, and contains opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation.

RATIONALE AND RECOMMENDATION:

The area possesses wilderness characteristics. In compliance with the court mandate, we choose to study 11,835 acres of public land under the authority of Section 603 of FLPMA.



QUAL SPRINGS
NV-050-411

UNIT NUMBER: NY-050-411

UNIT NAME: Quail Springs

AREA DESCRIPTION: This unit is located approximately eleven miles north of Las Vegas. The unit shares a common northern boundary with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Desert National Wildlife Range (FWS-DNWR). An access road to the FWS-DNWR depicts the unit's western boundary and a powerline right-of-way determines the southwestern border. The southern boundary is depicted by a private land ownership pattern. This unit is contiguous to the FWS-DNWR wilderness proposal No. 1. The unit consists of a southerly gently sloping bajada, blanketed with a minimal mixture of low-growing desert shrubs. Several sand washes cross the area breaking up the uniform landscape. Elevations range from 2,400 to 3,280 feet.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

The unit contains 12,145 acres of public land. The area is primarily in a natural condition, and contains opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation.

RATIONALE AND RECOMMENDATION:

The area possesses wilderness characteristics. In compliance with the court mandate, we choose to study 12,145 acres of public land under the authority of Section 603 of FLPMA.

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EL DORADO
NV-060-423

UNIT NUMBER: NV-050-423

UNIT NAME: El Dorado

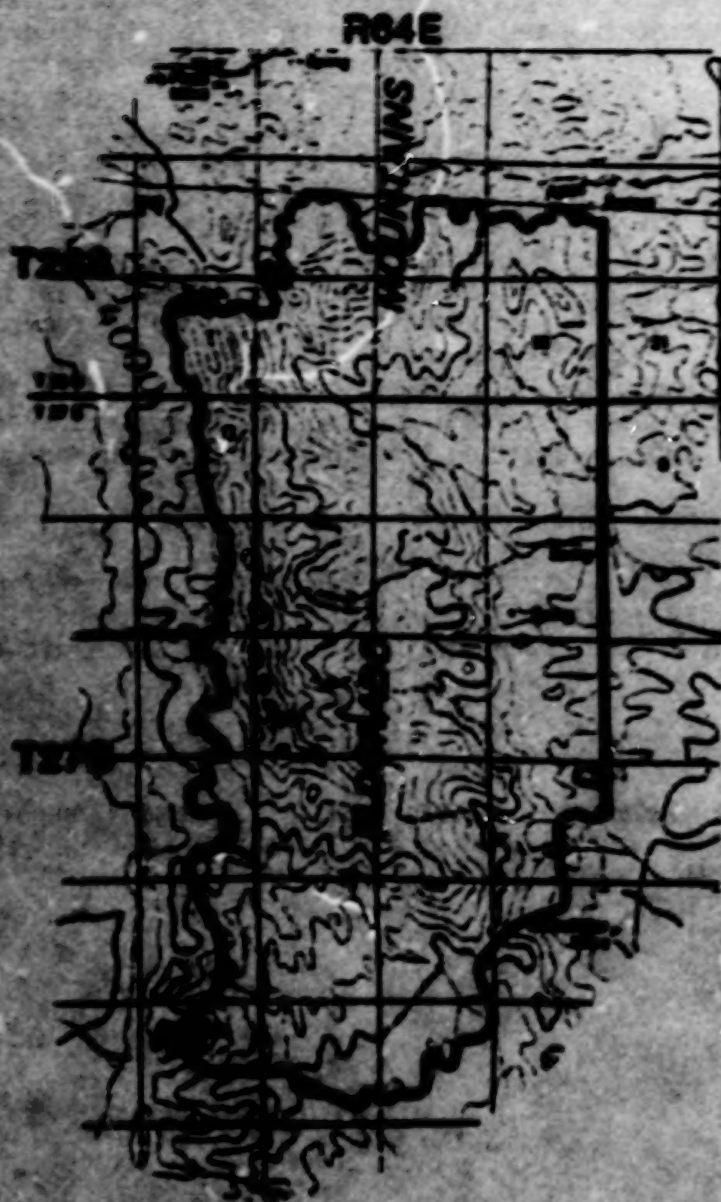
AREA DESCRIPTION: Located south of Boulder City and east of Nevada State Highway 60, the unit encompasses almost the entire northern portion of the El Dorado Mountain Range. The northern boundary is defined by the border of the land withdrawn under the El Dorado Act - P.L. 85-339. The western boundary follows Nevada State Highway 60 and intermittent topographical features. Private property, a road and topographic features comprise the unit's southern boundary. The unit's eastern border follows the National Park Service wilderness proposal for Lake Mead National Recreation Area (NRA), Unit No. 5, El Dorado Mountain. The unit consists of a diverse and colorful mountain range, volcanic in origin. The range is a blend of geological formations, composed of basalt flows, tuffs, andesite and metamorphic rocks. Dominating the landscape is a prominent north-south ridgeline, which is greatly dissected by wide washes, canyons, and rugged drainages. Elevations in the area range from 2,230 to 3,858 feet. Desert shrubs and cacti dominate the landscape. Small clumps of riparian vegetation line the major canyons and drainages.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

The unit contains 12,290 acres of public land and 120 acres of private land, for a total of 12,410 acres. El Dorado is in a natural condition, contains opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation, and exhibits ecological and geological values.

RATIONALE AND RECOMMENDATION:

The area possesses wilderness characteristics. In compliance with the court mandate, we choose to study 12,290 acres of public land under the authority of Section 603 of FLPMA.



PIRETEBA PEAKS
NV-060-438

UNIT NUMBER: NV-050-438

UNIT NAME: Ireteba Peaks

AREA DESCRIPTION: This unit is located south of Nelson and northeast of Searchlight. The northern boundary is defined by a powerline right-of-way and access road. The eastern boundary is the Lake Mead National Recreation Area (NMRA). A major topographic relief line along the base of Ireteba Peaks forms the western boundary. The southern boundary follows a combination of topographic features along the edge of unnatural features (primarily mineral exploration and/or mine sites). This unit is contiguous to the National Park Service wilderness proposal No. 4, Opal Mountain in the Lake Mead NMRA. Vegetation consists of scattered low-growing desert shrubs with pinyon/juniper at higher elevations. Block faulting is responsible for the topography of the unit which includes large granitic boulders and wide drainages at higher elevations. This unit ranges in elevation from 2,000 to 5,060 feet.

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

The unit contains 14,994 acres of public land. The area is in a natural condition, offers opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation, and possesses botanical and other ecological values.

RATIONALE AND RECOMMENDATION:

The area possesses wilderness characteristics. In compliance with the court mandate, we choose to study 14,994 acres of public land under the authority of Section 603 of FLPMA.

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BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
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